

CONFIDENTIAL
WEEKLY HOT ISSUES REPORT for RA/DRA Region 8
Week ending February 3, 2017

OFFICE OF ECOSYSTEMS PROTECTION AND REMEDIATION

No report

OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT, COMPLIANCE & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Previous Weeks

**No items to report*

This Week

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Next Week

**No items to report*

OFFICE OF PARTNERSHIPS AND REGULATORY ASSISTANCE

This Week

UINTA BASIN-UTAH EMISSION INVENTORY DATA: Region 8 is prepared to send each oil and gas operator in the Uinta Basin (Utah) an email as a follow-up to a webinar Region 8 delivered in mid-December 2016, in which the Region requested the operators address/clarify discrepancies in the 2014 emissions inventory data they submitted in 2016. The 30 individual emails would contain operator-specific questions pertaining to that operator's emissions inventory data and request a response by late February/early March 2017. The Uinta Basin has experienced high levels of ozone, almost entirely attributed to oil and gas activities, and will most likely be designated nonattainment for the 2015 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards later this year. To prepare for eventual SIP and FIP efforts, Region 8 has worked closely with the Utah Division of Air Quality, the Ute Tribe and industry to develop a detailed 2014 emission inventory. This inventory is needed to establish an emissions baseline from which ozone modeling can be performed and rulemaking developed to reduce emissions which contribute to ozone. With the importance of this emission inventory for air quality management, it is important that the data are as accurate as possible. Thus, Region 8 performed a detailed analysis comparing emission inventory data between operators and between state land versus Indian country. We

also compared the emission inventory data submitted by the operators to other operator-submitted data like the Tribal Registrations and the Greenhouse Gas Reporting program subpart W.

Contact: Monica Morales, 312-6936

WINTERTIME OZONE PRODUCTION IN UINTA BASIN-UTAH: On January 29-31, 2017, the Ute Indian Tribe's and Utah Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) monitors in the Uinta Basin of Utah recorded daily 8-hour ozone concentrations above the 70 parts per billion (ppb) 2015 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The high value on January 29 was 73 ppb at the Ouray monitor; on January 30 it was 88 ppb at the Myton monitor; and on January 31 it was 97 ppb at the Ouray monitor. All of the Ute Indian Tribe's monitors, along with the Utah DEQ monitor at Roosevelt exceeded the NAAQS on January 30. No break in the weather pattern is in the forecast for the next few days, so February 1 will likely be the fourth day in a row with ozone exceedances. The fourth highest 8-hour ozone average of the year is the regulatory value used to determine compliance with the NAAQS.

Designations for the 2015 NAAQS are scheduled to occur in October 2017, using 2014-2016 data. Ozone was high enough in 2016 that both the 2014-2016 design value for designations as well as the anticipated 2015-2017 design value will be greater than the level of the NAAQS. The Uinta Basin has now had winter ozone exceedances in six of the past eight years, whereas the Upper Green River Basin ozone nonattainment area has had exceedances in only two of those eight years, and six of the past thirteen years. Wyoming has not recorded exceedances this week.

Contacts: Gail Fallon, 312-6281 and Richard Payton, 312-6439

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

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OFFICE OF TECHNICAL AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES

No report

OFFICE OF WATER PROTECTION

No report